

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 6-10 are pending in this application. Claims 2-5 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1 and 6 have been amended and new Claims 7-10 have been added to better clarify the present invention, all without the introduction of any new matter.

The outstanding Office Action presented a rejection of Claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Inokuchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,172,952, Inokuchi).

Before considering the outstanding anticipation rejection, it is believed that a brief review of the present invention would be helpful. In this respect, the present invention is directed to a recording/reproducing apparatus and method for recording and reproducing data on and from a disk-shaped recording medium that has an address data area with embossed pits and a recording/reproducing area with a wobbling spiral groove. A wobble-signal is extracted from the signal the head obtains from the wobbling spiral groove and provided to a PLL circuit to produce a sync signal therefrom. A pulse is produced at least during a wobble signal disturbance period occurring when switching between at least one of a recording and reproducing operation and also provided to the PLL circuit to provide an unchanging sync signal during the wobble signal disturbance period to avoid the wobble disturbances from adversely being included in the sync signal.

Turning to the rejection of Claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Inokuchi, it is noted that the cancellation of Claims 2-5 is believed to render this rejection thereof as being moot.

Moreover, independent Claims 1 and 6 are believed to clearly patentably define over Inokuchi because they require that a pulse must be actually produced during a wobble signal

disturbance period occurring when switching the recording/reproducing apparatus between at least one of recording and reproducing operations and that this pulse occurring at this time must then be provided to the PLL circuit to then provide a synch signal not subject to this specifically recited disturbance condition.

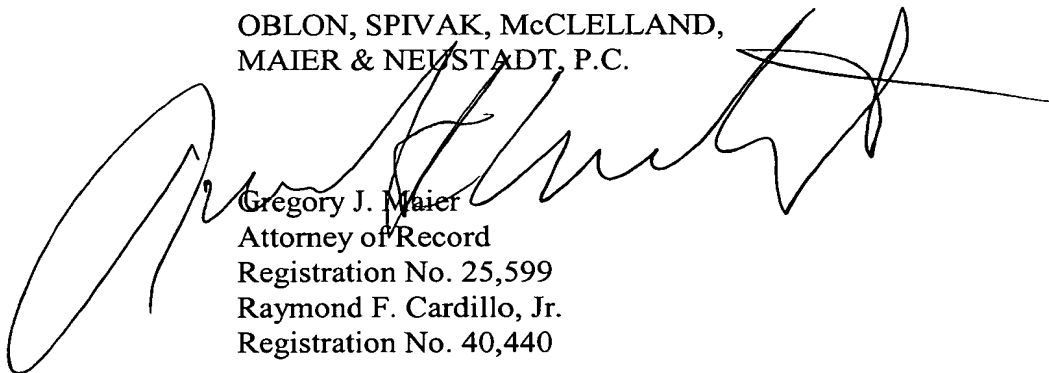
It is noted that the outstanding Action simply assumes that a switching between record and reproduce mode always requires track scan/seek. In any event, even if there is a scan/seek after switching from the recording operation to the reproducing operation, the interruptions of each address area occurring after this switching cannot be reasonably said to be a pulse “occurring when switching the recording/reproducing apparatus between at least one of a recording and reproducing operation.”

As new independent Claim 9 contains a similar limitation to that noted as to independent Claims 1 and 6, it is also believed to patentably define over Inokuchi. Furthermore, as new Claim 7 depends on Claim 1, new Claim 8 depends on Claim 6, and new Claim 10 depends on new independent Claim 9, these dependent claims are also believed to patentably define over Inokuchi for the reasons noted above as to these independent claims. In addition, as each of Claims 7, 8, and 10 require that an input gate of the PLL circuit must receive the pulse and wobble signal and no such disclosure or suggestion has been made by Inokuchi, these claims patentably define over Inokuchi for this reason as well.

In light of the foregoing, it is believed that no other issues remain outstanding in this application, such that it is also believed that this application is clearly in condition for formal allowance. Accordingly, an early and favorable action to this effect is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Gregory J. Maier, is written over the printed name and extends across the right side of the page.

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IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 4, with the following paragraph:

--The present invention relates to a recording/reproducing apparatus and a recording/reproducing method, both designed to record and reproduce data on and from a disk-shaped recording medium that has an address data area having [emboss] embossed pits and a recording/reproducing area having a wobbling spiral groove.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 20, and ending on page 3, line 8, with the following paragraph:

--To achieve this object, a recording/reproducing apparatus according to the invention is designed to record and reproduce data on and from a disk-shaped recording medium that has an address data area having [emboss] embossed pits and a recording/reproducing area having a wobbling spiral groove. The apparatus comprises: head means for reading address data from the address data area and writing and reading a signal in and from the recording/reproducing area; and wobble-signal processing means for extracting a wobble signal from the signal the head means has read from the recording/reproducing area, and for holding an output from a PLL circuit designed to reproduce a sync signal from the wobble signal[,while no normal] at least for a wobble signal [is obtained] disturbance period when switching between recording and reproducing modes.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 9, with the following paragraph:

--To attain the object mentioned above, a recording/reproducing method according to this invention is designed to record and reproduce data on and from a disk-shaped recording medium that has an address data area having [emboss] embossed pits and a recording/reproducing area having a wobbling spiral groove. The method comprises the steps of: extracting a wobble signal from a signal [head means has] read from the recording/reproducing area; and holding an output from a PLL circuit [designed to reproduce] providing a sync signal from the wobble signal[, while no normal] at least during a disturbance of the wobble signal [is obtained] occurring for a period of time when switching between recording and reproducing modes.--

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

--1. (Amended) A recording/reproducing apparatus for recording and reproducing data on and from a disk-shaped recording medium that has an address data area having [emboss] embossed pits and a recording/reproducing area having a wobbling spiral groove, said apparatus comprising:

head means for reading address data from the address data area and writing and reading a signal in and from the recording/reproducing area; [and]

wobble-signal processing means for extracting a wobble signal from the signal the head means [has read] obtains from the [recording/reproducing area,] wobbling spiral groove and for providing the wobble signal to a PLL circuit means for producing a sync signal from the wobble signal; and

pulse means for producing a pulse at least during a wobble signal disturbance period

occurring when switching the recording/reproducing apparatus between at least one of recording and reproducing operations and for providing the pulse to the [holding a] PLL circuit [designed to reproduce] means, said PLL circuit means further providing an unchanging [a] sync signal [from] during the wobble signal[, while no normal] disturbance period in response to receiving the pulse [wobble signal is obtained].--

2. (Cancel).

3. (Cancel).

4. (Cancel).

5. (Cancel).

--6. (Amended) A recording/reproducing method of recording and reproducing data on and from a disk-shaped recording medium that has an address data area having [emboss] embossed pits and a recording/reproducing area having a wobbling spiral groove, said method comprising the steps of:

extracting a wobble signal from a signal [head means has read] obtained from the [recording/reproducing area] wobbling spiral groove; [and]

providing the wobble signal to [holding] a PLL circuit [designed] to [reproduce] produce a sync signal from the wobble signal[, while no normal wobble signal is obtained];

providing a pulse to the PLL circuit at least during a wobble signal disturbance period occurring when switching between at least one of recording and reproducing operations to cause the PLL circuit to hold the sync signal unchanged through the wobble signal disturbance period.--

7. (New).

8. (New).

9. (New).

10. (New).

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Please cancel the unnumbered page titled “ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE” in its entirety (lines 1-11) that appears after page 14 and replace it with the above-noted text.